## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE DIVISION

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a.  b.  c.  d.  /e) hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the above Petition is true to the best of information, knowledge, and belief.  Signed this day of	Prayers for Re	lief (List what you	u want to Court to do):
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ry action, or whether t permits the Secretation becomes availanued exposure until U ID WINCUICI, III VIIVON

1 S. 1420, 1427, 28 U.S. 607, 618-621, 86 to Preserve Overton J.S. 402, 416, 91 S.Ct. cial review under the test sultimately def-Richardson v. Perales, Sonsolo v. Federal Marn is entitled to the tra-136<u>q</u>1971). Careful ask is especially impor-As ave empha-16 LEd.2d 131 (1966). relevant factors and seen a clear error of has imposed the comeisionwas based on a rous #substantial eviitrary and capricious emplaces a searching d capricious" standard king. o We have obts" in order to deteraction should be sub-3 Secretary's determireld if supported by in the record con-29 A.S.C. § 655(f). nts a Regislative judgtringent than the tra-

riew, make judicial resafety and health stanbstantial evidence test sensitive to three fac-

ized to substitute its the Secretary. If the ered the decisional facconformance with the

of Validity, and the

ment whether that risk is tolerable cannot ole level of risk, the ultimate decision must necessarily be based on considerations of policy as well as empirically verifiable facts. Factual determinations can at most define the risk in some statistical way; the judgbe based solely on a resolution of the facts. connections and theoretical extrapolations may be uncertain. Third, when the question involves determination of the acceptawith which the Secretary must deal are frequently not subject to any definitive resolution. Often "the factual finger points, it does not conclude." Society of Plastics Industry, Inc. v. OSHA, 509 F.2d 1301, 1308 (CA2) (Clark, J.), cert. denied, 421 U.S. 992, 95 S.Ct. 1998, 44 L.Ed.2d 482 (1975). Causal or experience.

Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 98 S.Ct. 1197, 55 L.Ed.2d 460 [1978]. It must recognize that the ultimate decision cannot be based solely on determiclusions that have been reached are ones which the courts are ill-equipped to resolve a reviewing court must be mindful of the nations of fact, and that those factual conlimited nature of its role. See Vermont within the boundaries set by Congress. But The decision to take action in conditions of uncertainty bears little resemblance to the sort of empirically verifiable factual conclusions to which the substantial evidence test is normally applied. Such decisions were not intended to be unreviewable; they too must be scrutinized to ensure that the Secretary has acted reasonably and on their own.

el to 1 ppm was well within the Secretary's the Secretary's conclusions that benzene causes leukemia, blood disorders, and chromosomal damage even at low levels, that an exposure level of 10 ppm is more dangerous sion to reduce the permissible exposure levauthority. The Court of Appeals upheld Under this standard of review, the deci-

Id., at 621, 86

decision must be given

to which they are unaccustomed by training 1706 required to immerse themselves in matters. Second, the factual issues

el above 1 ppm was hazardous. We have substantial number of employees. Studies was some direct evidence of incidence of and chromosomal damage at exposure levels of 10 ppm and below. Moreover, numerous experts testified that existing evidence required an inference that an exposure levstated that "well-reasoned expert testimony—based on what is known and uncontradicted by empirical evidence—may in and of itself be 'substantial evidence' when firstsure above the 1 ppm level would pose a ment to some indeterminate but possibly revealed hundreds of deaths attributable to benzene exposure. Expert after expert testified that no safe level of exposure had been shown and that the extent of the risk eukemia, nonmalignant blood disorders, In these circumstances, the Secretary's sible, on the basis of the best available standard for the period of his working life." 29 U.S.C. § 655(b)(5). On this record, the Secretary could conclude that regular expodefinite risk resulting in material impairquiring that he "set the standard which capacity even if such employee has regular exposure to the hazard dealt with by such decision was reasonable and in full conformance with the statutory language remost adequately assures, to the extent feaevidence, that no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional unavailable." FPC v. Florida Power declined with the exposure level. hand evidence on the question

tors and facilitate judicial review. See Dunlop This is not to say that the Secretary is profits in the process of setting priorities among hazardous substances, or that systematic consideration of costs and benefits is not to be forts to quantify costs and benefits, like statements of reasons generally, may help to promote informed consideration of decisional fachibited from examining relative costs and beneattempted in the standard-setting process. Efv. Bachowski, 421 U.S. 560, 571-574, 95 S.Ct

cy in knowledge relates to the extent of to the quantity of a standard's benefits is see no reason to hold that the Secretary has from acting when definitive information as unavailable.26 Where, as here, the deficienthe benefits rather than their existence, l exceeded his statutory authority. lives that would be saved was not subject to clusion that the reduction was "feasible." In quantification. I Nor did it question his con-

appropriate" clause. Indeed, the plurality's structure, and legislative history, and it is utory construction. In short, the plurality's standard is a fabrication bearing no connecrequires the Secretary to show that it is "more likely than not" that the risk he Ante, at 2869. The plurality does not show rived from the "reasonably necessary or reasoning is refuted by the Act's language, foreclosed by every applicable guide to stattion with the acts or intentions of Congress. through reasoning that may charitably be described as obscure. According to the pluhow this requirement can be plausibly derality, the definition of occupational safety and health standards as those "reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide safe or seeks to regulate is a "significant" one. working conditions" The plurality avoids this healthful

ooses set forth in the statute's substantive provisions. See, e. g., FCC v. National Citi-At the outset, it is important to observe that "reasonably necessary or appropriate" clauses are routinely inserted in regulatory egislation, and in the past such clauses nave uniformly been interpreted as general provisos that regulatory actions must bear a easonable relation to those statutory pur-

Secretary indicates that he has attempted to quantify costs and benefits in the past. See 43 Fed.Reg. 54354, 54427-54431 (1978) (lead); id., 1851, 1859-61, 44 L.Ed.2d 377 (1975). at 27350, 27378–27379 (cotton dust).

counting for the scientific uncertainty, the Secretary expressly—and reasonably—found such It is not necessary in the present litigation to say whether the Secretary must show a reasonable relation between costs and benefits. Disthe issues of.

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than one of 1 ppm, and that benefits will result from the proposed standard. It did not set aside his finding that the number of lives that would be saved was not subject to 1701 quantification. INor did it question his conclusion that the reduction was "feasible."

In these circumstances, the Secretary's decision was reasonable and in full conformance with the statutory language requiring that he "set the standard which most adequately assures, to the extent feasible, on the basis of the best available evidence, that no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity even if such employee has regular exposure to the hazard dealt with by such standard for the period of his working life." 29 U.S.C. § 655(b)(5). On this record, the Secretary could conclude that regular exposure above the 1 ppm level would pose a definite risk resulting in material impairment to some indeterminate but possibly substantial number of employees. Studies revealed hundreds of deaths attributable to benzene exposure. Expert after expert testified that no safe level of exposure had been shown and that the extent of the risk declined with the exposure level. There was some direct evidence of incidence of leukemia, nonmalignant blood disorders, and chromosomal damage at exposure levels of 10 ppm and below. Moreover, numerous experts testified that existing evidence required an inference that an exposure level above 1 ppm was hazardous. We have stated that "well-reasoned expert testimony-based on what is known and uncontradicted by empirical evidence—may in and of itself be 'substantial evidence' when firsthand evidence on the question . . . is unavailable." FPC v. Florida Power &

This is not to say that the Secretary is prohibited from examining relative costs and benefits in the process of setting priorities among hazardous substances, or that systematic conne sideration of costs and benefits is not to be attempted in the standard-setting process. Efforts to quantify costs and benefits, like statements of reasons generally, may help to promote informed consideration of decisional factors and facilitate judicial review. See Dunlop v. Bachowski, 421 U.S. 560, 571-574, 95 S.Ct.

Light Co., 404 U.S. 453, 464-465, 92 S.Ct. 637, 644, 30 L.Ed.2d 600 (1972). Nothing in the Act purports to prevent the Secretary from acting when definitive information as to the quantity of a standard's benefits is unavailable.26 Where, as here, the deficiency in knowledge relates to the extent of 1708 the benefits rather than their existence, I see no reason to hold that the Secretary has exceeded his statutory authority.

The plurality avoids this conclusion through reasoning that may charitably be described as obscure. According to the plurality, the definition of occupational safety and health standards as those "reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide safe or healthful ... working conditions" requires the Secretary to show that it is "more likely than not" that the risk he seeks to regulate is a "significant" one. Ante, at 2869. The plurality does not show how this requirement can be plausibly derived from the "reasonably necessary or appropriate" clause. Indeed, the plurality's reasoning is refuted by the Act's language, structure, and legislative history, and it is foreclosed by every applicable guide to statutory construction. In short, the plurality's standard is a fabrication bearing no connection with the acts or intentions of Congress.

At the outset, it is important to observe that "reasonably necessary or appropriate" clauses are routinely inserted in regulatory legislation, and in the past such clauses have uniformly been interpreted as general provisos that regulatory actions must bear a reasonable relation to those statutory purposes set forth in the statute's substantive provisions. See, e. g., FCC v. National Citi-

1851, 1859-61, 44 L.Ed.2d 377 (1975). The Secretary indicates that he has attempted to quantify costs and benefits in the past. See 43 Fed.Reg. 54354, 54427-54431 (1978) (lead); id., at 27350, 27378-27379 (cotton dust).

It is not necessary in the present litigation to say whether the Secretary must show a reasonable relation between costs and benefits. Discounting for the scientific uncertainty, the Secretary expressly-and reasonably-found such a relation here.